

Advisory Committee Memory

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Landfill Site Selection County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works

Meeting 2
June 17, 2008
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Attendance:

Committee Members: Gary Pacheco, David Sproat, Ted Inouye, George Costa, Mike Curtis, Mary J. Buza-Sims, Jose Bulatao, Jr., Michael V. Layosa, Edward Kawamura, Keith Nitta, Kenny Ishii, Palmer Hafdahl, Glenn Frazier
Members Absent/Excused: Diana Simao, Kathleen Hurd
County DPW: Troy Tanigawa, Emily Ishida
Consultant: Brian Takeda
Facilitator: Dee Dee Letts

The meeting began with a recap of the Mayor's charge to the Advisory Committee:

- To think and represent Island-wide interests not just your community
- That no matter what alternatives for waste disposal the County pursues there will be a need for a solid waste landfill
- That the group charge is to recommend a site for the landfill not to discuss other technologies, recycling programs or community benefit packages as these are being discussed through the integrated solid waste management plan and other processes

A letter received from Kathleen West-Hurd concerning criteria that she felt were important for consideration was shared with the group. Samples of 60 mil landfill liner material showing the thermal fusion weld were also examined by the committee.

Several members of the group felt that the previous studies supplied to the committee were done well and that the methodology and information was a good assessment of the sites based on the criteria used. There was also a feeling among the group that the EPA and DOH knew what they were doing in establishing the criteria for the siting of landfills, and that this assumption should be a starting place for the work of the committee. The group wanted to make sure that mistakes, if any, were made at the previous landfill that they would not be repeated at a new landfill or the expansion of the current landfill. The County noted that changes have been made at Kekaha in the areas of monitoring, which changed from semi-annually to quarterly. The monitoring continues to follow the protocol set by the EPA.

The Committee noted that DOH had taken the EPA geological requirements and adapted them to the unique geology of the Hawaiian Islands. It was also noted that the criteria is applied in all phases of the landfill's life from siting through closure.

Issues of crisis planning and flood plain locations were discussed. All sites proposed in the Earth Tech studies are outside the 100 year flood plain. The County is developing a crisis response plan that includes the provision for landfill needs to handle disaster and clean-up debris as a separate document.

The consultant shared with the group that criteria generally fell into the areas of social, environmental, economic, technical and other factors. The group worked with the ideas brought forth at the last meeting regarding criteria, those raised in Kathleen's letter, and any additional criteria that it felt needed to be added. The results were as follows:

Social

- Impacts on population centers close to the proposed sites
- Human Elements: this could include proximity to schools, hospitals, residences etc.
- Landownership: public, private, and whether the land is ceded or homestead lands
- Potential use for the landfill site after closure
- Impact of proposed sites on present and future transportation planning – land and air
- Impact of proposed sites on present and future land use plans – both residential and visitor development, and County and state plans as proposed in the General Plan and other documents

Environmental

- Ground water protection should be foremost – this deals with siting anything above the UIC line and it was noted that portions of some sites may be in the UIC area
- Maximum use of byproducts – i.e. provide for refuse source separation, and the recovery of methane gas for the generation of energy
- Monitoring that meets best practices and all federal, state and county standards
- Likelihood of adverse impacts/contamination to soil, ground water, and coastal waters
- Site should meet air quality standards to assure minimum impact on residences, businesses, and the community

Economic

- Opportunities for co-location with other facilities called for in the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan such as composting and recycling facilities
- Cost of haul of solid waste from major generation areas
- Landownership – this would include willingness of landowner to sell or lease if there is a beneficial use after closure, also would include landowners willing to negotiate for other types of trade

- Availability of alternative funding opportunities i.e. attractiveness of the site for public/private partnerships
- Development costs to government – infrastructure costs, and mitigation and monitoring costs

Technical

- Monitoring easily accommodated by the site
- Proximity of necessary infrastructure to the site
- Proximity and availability of cover material for use by the landfill
- Proximity to present and future transfer stations
- Zoning and land use classification issues
- Clean up and closure costs
- Accessibility to the site
- Maximum landfill life and possible future expansion

Other

The group discussed the need to educate the public about the various issues involved in selecting a landfill. They felt that the deliberations and information shared with the committee would be important for communities to have access to as the process moved forward. The County agreed to set up a place on their existing website where the information from the committee can be posted and accessed. They will let the committee members know when it is available so that they can inform their respective communities. There was agreement that all notes from these meetings and all information provided to the committee would be placed on the site – this would include studies, handouts and notes.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee was scheduled for July 15, 2008, 1:00 pm.